

# News on the anti-D3-brane uplift

KPV decay at higher order in  $\alpha'$

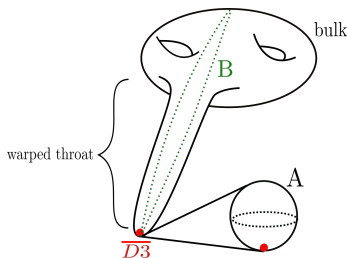
Simon Schreyer

Based on 2402.13311  
and older work 2208.02826, 2212.07437 w/ Arthur Hebecker and Gerben Venken

Swamplandia May 27 2024

# Motivation

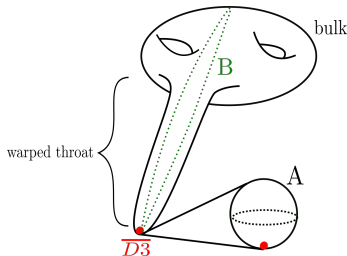
- Key challenge: Accelerated expanding universes in String Theory?
- Simplest explanation: positive cc, e.g. **Anti-D3-brane uplift**



**Figure:** Illustration of Calabi-Yau geometry admitting a warped throat region.

# Motivation

- Key challenge: Accelerated expanding universes in String Theory?
- Simplest explanation: positive cc, e.g. **Anti-D3-brane uplift**
- Put  $p \overline{D3}$ -branes at tip of KS throat
- KS throat:  $M$  units of  $F_3$  ( $K$  units of  $H_3$ ) flux on A-cycle (B-cycle), Tip topologically  $S^3$  w/  $R_{S^3} \sim \sqrt{g_s M} l_s$



**Figure:** Illustration of Calabi-Yau geometry admitting a warped throat region.

# Motivation (continued)

- Uplifting contribution:  $V_{\overline{D3}} \sim \exp(-N/g_s M^2)/\mathcal{V}^{4/3}$ ,  $N = KM$
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- **Problem:** Need cancel flux contribution  $N$  to tadpole but negative  $Q_3$  bounded by geometry  $\Rightarrow$  lower bound on  $g_s M^2$  key
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- Can quantum corrections be neglected in the KPV decay at small  $g_s M^2$ ?
- No! Take as proxy curvature correction to  $\overline{D3}$  action:

$$\alpha'^2 \int d^4x \mathcal{R}_{ab} \mathcal{R}^{ab} \sim \alpha'^2 \int d^4x 1/R_{S^3}^4, \quad R_{S^3} \sim \sqrt{g_s M} l_s$$

**Goal:** Study the KPV process including quantum corrections

# Outline

- 1 KPV decay at tree level
- 2 Two perspectives to study the KPV setup
- 3 The NS5-brane picture
- 4 The nonabelian brane stack picture
- 5 Limitations and Summary



# KPV decay at leading order [KPV '01]

Classical instability: brane-flux annihilation

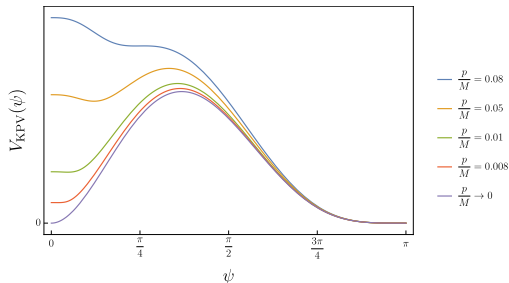
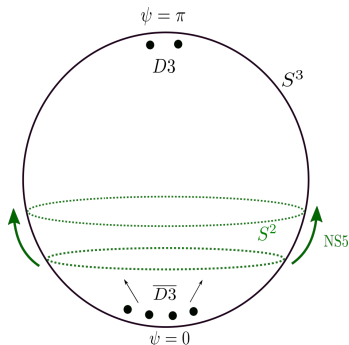


Figure: KPV potential.

Figure: The tip of the throat.

$\Rightarrow$  Metastable minimum if  $p/M < 0.08$ , leading order in  $\alpha'$  analysis!

# Two perspectives to study the KPV decay

## 1. NS5-brane perspective

- Single NS5 w/  $p$  units of worldvolume flux
- NS5-brane action controlled if  $R_{S^2} = \sqrt{g_s M} \sin \psi l_s \approx \sqrt{g_s M} \frac{p}{M} l_s \gg l_s$

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## 2. Nonabelian stack of $\overline{D3}$ -branes

- Brane stack is nonabelian: Transverse displacement of branes described by noncommutative scalars  $\Phi^i$  (live in adjoint rep of  $U(p)$  gauge group of stack)
- Nonabelian brane stack dynamics described by Myers action, controlled if distance of branes inside stack is substringy  $\Rightarrow R_{S^2} \approx \sqrt{g_s M} \frac{p}{M} l_s \ll \sqrt{g_s p} l_s$

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$\Rightarrow$  at  $\sqrt{g_s \rho} \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1)$ : complementary regimes of validity, at  $\sqrt{g_s \rho} \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(1)$ : overlapping regimes of validity

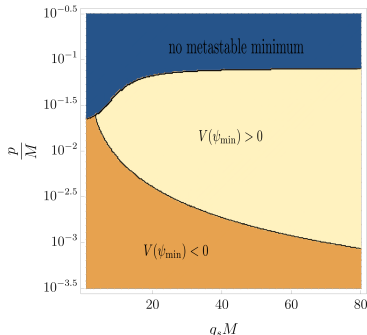
# The NS5-brane picture [Hebecker, SJS, Venken '22, SJS, Venken '22]

⇒ Calculation of  $\alpha'^2$  corrected NS5-brane potential + study where in  $(g_s M, \rho/M)$  space minimum exists

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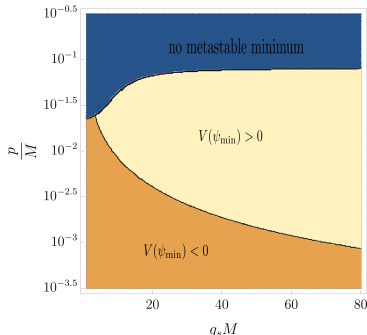
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(compare to  $g_s M^2 > 12$  from KPV!)  
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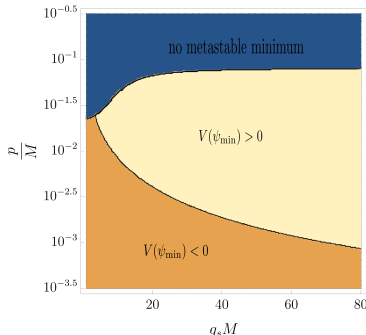
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⇒ very boundary of control
- New bound and new uplift work at boundary of control



⇒ Advance into region not controlled from NS5 perspective by studying stack of  $\overline{D3}$ -branes (valid for  $R_{S^2} \ll \sqrt{g_s \rho} l_s$ )



# The nonabelian brane stack picture

- Nonabelian  $\overline{D3}$ -brane stack dynamics in S-dual frame determined by [\[Myers '99\]](#)

$$S_{\text{DBI}} = -\frac{T_3}{g_s} \int d^4\sigma \text{STr} \left( \sqrt{\det(Q^i_j)} \sqrt{-\det(P[E_{ab} + E_{ai}(Q^{-1} - \delta)^{ij}E_{jb}] + \lambda F_{ab})} \right)$$

$$S_{\text{CS}} = -T_3 \int \text{STr} \left( P \left[ C_4 + i\lambda i_\Phi i_\Phi (B_6 + C_2 \wedge C_4) + \dots \right] \right)$$

$$Q^i_j = \delta^i_j + \frac{i\lambda}{g_s} [\Phi^i, \Phi^k] (G_{kj} + g_s C_{kj}), \quad E_{ab} = G_{ab} - C_{ab}, \quad \lambda = 2\pi\alpha'$$

- Nonabelian features: Nonabelian pullback  $P$ , interior product  $i_\Phi$ , symmetric trace  $\text{STr}$ ,  $\Phi$  noncommutative scalars

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- Nonabelian features: Nonabelian pullback  $P$ , interior product  $i_\Phi$ , symmetric trace  $\text{STr}$ ,  $\Phi$  noncommutative scalars
- Questions: Does stack expand? If yes, how large is  $S^2$ ?  
 $\Rightarrow$  Only need stationary points of potential for  $\Phi$

# The leading order result [KPV '01]

- $V_{\text{KPV}} = \frac{T_3}{g_s} \left( \rho + \frac{\lambda^2}{4g_s^2} \text{tr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^j][\Phi^j, \Phi^i]) - \frac{i\lambda^2}{3} F_{ikl} \text{tr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l) \right)$
- Stationary point: ansatz  $[\Phi^i, \Phi^j] = A \varepsilon_{ijk} \Phi^k$  and  $\Phi^i = -iA\alpha^i/2$ ,  $\alpha^i$ :  $(\rho \times \rho)$ -dim irr. rep of  $SU(2) \Rightarrow \Phi^i$  describe fuzzy sphere w/  $A = -ig_s^2 f$

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- $V_{\text{KPV}}(A = -ig_s^2 f) < V_{\text{KPV}}(A = 0) \Rightarrow$  stack expands into  $S^2$
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- $R_{S^2}^2 \simeq \frac{\lambda^2}{\rho} \text{tr}((\Phi^i)^2) \sim \frac{\rho^2}{M^2} g_s M l_s^2$
- Condition for minimum:  $R_{S^2} \ll R_{S^3} \Leftrightarrow \rho/M \ll 0.138$  (compare to NS5:  $\rho/M < 0.08$ )

# Nonabelian $\overline{D3}$ -brane stack at higher order [SJS '24]

- Do same analysis including higher order corrections:
  - Higher commutator corrections ( $(p/M)^2$  expansion), expand to next-to-leading order
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- **Goal:** Calculate next-to-lo corrections to  $V_{\text{KPV}}, A, R_{S^2}$  based on

$$S = -\frac{T_3}{g_s} \int d^4\sigma \text{STr} \left( \sqrt{\det(G_{ab}) \det(Q_j^i)} (1 + \alpha'^2 \mathcal{L}_{\alpha'^2}) \right) + S_{\text{CS}, \alpha'^2} \\ - T_3 \int \text{STr} \left( P \left[ i\lambda i_\Phi i_\Phi C_2 \wedge C_4 - \frac{\lambda^2}{4} (i_\Phi i_\Phi)^2 C_2 \wedge C_2 \wedge C_4 + \dots \right] \right)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Derive next-to leading order potential  $V_{\text{KPV}, \text{nlo}}$

# Next-to-leading order solution

Solving perturbatively for stationary points of  $V_{\text{KPV,nlo}}$ :

- $A_{\text{nlo}} = -ig_s^2 f \gamma (1 + \delta), \gamma = 1 + \frac{c}{(g_s M)^2} + \dots,$   
 $\delta \sim \lambda^2 \frac{p^2}{M^2} (-1 + \frac{1}{(g_s M)^2} + \dots) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)$



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Where do we find minima? Where do we trust solution?

# Conditions for Control and Minima

1. Control over  $\alpha'$  expansion:  $(g_s M)^2 > c = 4.91$  (or  $\gamma - 1 \ll 1$ )
2. Control over commutator expansion:  $\frac{R_{S^2}^2}{g_s \rho \lambda} \equiv f_p \ll 1$

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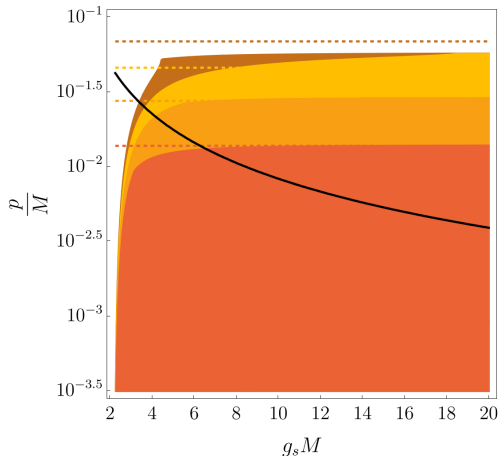
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Where in  $(g_s M, \rho/M)$  space how well satisfied?

# Pheno Implications I



■  $\max\left(\frac{R_{S^2}}{R_{S^3}}, f_p\right) \leq c_m = 0.5, \delta \leq 0.2$

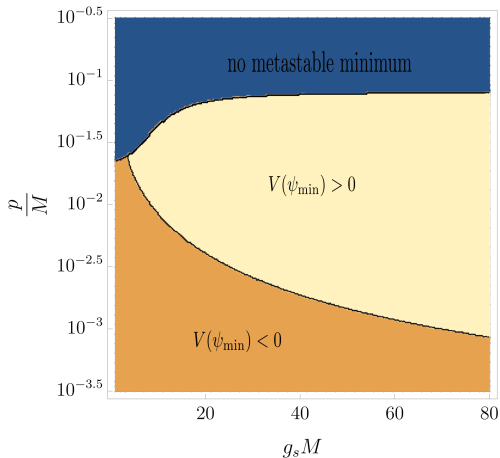
■  $\max\left(\frac{R_{S^2}}{R_{S^3}}, f_p\right) \leq c_m = \frac{1}{3}$

■  $\max\left(\frac{R_{S^2}}{R_{S^3}}, f_p\right) \leq c_m = 0.2$

■  $\max\left(\frac{R_{S^2}}{R_{S^3}}, f_p\right) \leq c_m = 0.1$

■  $V_{NS5} = 0, R_{S^2, NS5} \approx l_s$

# Pheno Implications I



# Pheno Implications II

- Can access new region in  $(g_s M, \rho/M)$  space
- Compare  $(g_s M^2)_{\min}$  in Table w/ NS5 for  $\rho = 1$ :  $(g_s M^2)_{\min, \text{NS5}} = 144$

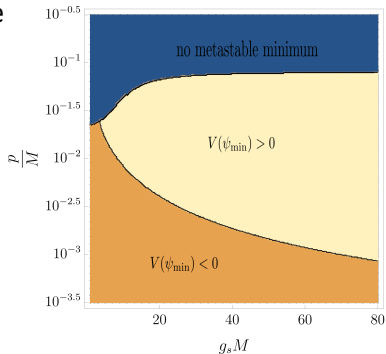
**Table:** Minimal values of  $g_s M^2$ .

$c_m$	$(g_s M^2)_{\min}$	$(g_s M)_{\min}$
0.1	$302\rho$	3.23
0.2	$165\rho$	3.559
$\frac{1}{3}$	$106\rho$	3.714
0.5	$83\rho$	4.369



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- Compare  $(g_s M^2)_{\min}$  in Table w/ NS5 for  $\rho = 1$ :  $(g_s M^2)_{\min, \text{NS5}} = 144$
- $V_{\text{KPV, nlo}}(A = A_{\text{nlo}}) > 0 \forall g_s M > 2.25$   
 $\Rightarrow$  No new way of uplifting for large  $g_s M$



# Limitations

- Do not control small  $g_s M$ ,  $\alpha'$  expansion breaks down
- Not all relevant  $\alpha'^2$  corrections on branes known, but crucial for value  $c$  in  $\gamma = 1 + c/(g_s M)^2 + \dots$

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- Worked in flat space approx. ( $R_{S^3} \gg R_{S^2}$ )  $\Rightarrow$  cannot see KPV decay explicitly + additional corrections
- Do not control large  $p/M$  from  $\overline{D3}$  perspective  $\Rightarrow$  need sum up all commutator corrections

# Summary

- KPV setup can (and should!) be studied from 2 perspectives:
  1. NS5-brane: when  $R_{S^2} \gg l_s (\Leftrightarrow \text{large } g_s M, \rho/M)$ , and to explicitly see decay
  2.  $\overline{D3}$ -brane stack: when  $R_{S^2} \ll \sqrt{g_s \rho} l_s (\Leftrightarrow \text{large } g_s M, \text{small } \rho/M)$ , includes phenomenologically interesting regime of string size  $S^2$  (smallish  $g_s M^2$ )

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- $(g_s M^2)_{\min} \approx \mathcal{O}(100)$  from both perspectives (tree level:  $g_s M^2 > 12$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  requires much larger flux contribution to D3 tadpole than assumed from tree level
- New way of uplifting proposed in [\[Hebecker, SJS, Venken '22\]](#) can (if at all) work for small  $g_s M$  where  $\alpha'$  expansion breaks down

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- Future: Extend stack analysis to KPV background, sum up all order commutators to access regime of larger  $\rho/M$

Thank you!  
Any questions?

# Higher order scalar potential

$$V_{\text{tot}} = V_{\text{DBI}, \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)} \left( 1 - \frac{c}{(g_s M)^2} \right) + V_{\text{CS}, \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)} + \frac{T_3 \rho}{g_s} \frac{c_2}{(g_s M)^2},$$

$$V_{\text{CS}, \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)} = -\frac{T_3}{g_s} \left( \frac{i\lambda^2}{6} F_{ikl} \text{tr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l) + \frac{\lambda^4}{72} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^j]\Phi^k[\Phi^l, \Phi^m]\Phi^n) F_{kji} F_{nml} \right),$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\text{DBI}, \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)} = & \frac{T_3}{g_s} \left( \text{tr}(\mathbb{1}) + \frac{\lambda^2}{4g_s^2} \text{tr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^j][\Phi^j, \Phi^i]) - \frac{i\lambda^2}{6} F_{ikl} \text{tr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l) \right. \\ & - \frac{\lambda^4}{72} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l[\Phi^j, \Phi^m]\Phi^p) F_{lki} F_{pmj} + \frac{\lambda^4}{36} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l[\Phi^j, \Phi^m]\Phi^p) F_{lkj} F_{pmi} \\ & + \frac{i\lambda^4}{24g_s^2} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^k]\Phi^l[\Phi^j, \Phi^m][\Phi^m, \Phi^j]) F_{lki} - \frac{\lambda^4}{32g_s^4} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^j][\Phi^j, \Phi^i])^2 \\ & \left. - \frac{i\lambda^4}{6g_s^2} \text{STr}([\Phi^i, \Phi^j][\Phi^j, \Phi^m][\Phi^m, \Phi^k]\Phi^l F_{lki}) \right). \end{aligned}$$